MARVEL®

KNIGHTS

NOV
#1

WWW.MARVEL.COM

GOLDEN
SNIEGOSKI
WRIGHTSON
PALMIOTTI

THE PUNISHER®

WRIGHTSON
JUSKO
98

DIRECT EDITION

7 59606 04707 9
00111

$2.99 US $4.20 CAN

BROOKLYN.

A FILTHY ALLEY LIKE A THOUSAND OTHERS. BUT THIS ONE IS SPECIAL.

THIS IS WHERE HE DIED.

IT'S BECOME A KIND OF SHRINE, NOW, VISITED BY THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN SO LOW THEY CLING TO THE LAST RUNG ON THE LADDER OF HUMANITY.

THE HOMELESS AND THE POOREST OF THE POOR, THE ONES THE COSTUMES NEVER EVEN NOTICE.

OR JUST THOSE SO FRIGHTENED THEY CAN'T THINK OF ANYWHERE ELSE TO TURN.

HER NAME IS LUCY MELLACE.

SHE'S SUFFERED ENOUGH.

THE PUNISHER® Vol. 2, No. 1, November, 1998. Published by MARVEL COMICS. Joseph Calamari, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Sharrel Rhoades, Executive VP, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1998 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.20 in Canada. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. PUNISHER (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. Printed in the U.S.A.

LIKE SO MANY OTHERS, SHE'S COME TO THIS PLACE WITH AN OFFERING, AND A PRAYER.

A PRAYER TO A MAN WHO TOOK HIS OWN LIFE IN THIS ALLEY. HE'S JUST A LEGEND NOW. AN URBAN BOGEYMAN.

IT'S JUSTIN RANDALL'S TWELFTH BIRTHDAY TODAY.

HIS MOM PROMISED HIM A CAKE WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA ON IT.

WHEN HE'S DONE, HE'LL COME INTO JUSTIN'S ROOM.

HE'S SEEN THE SYMBOL, SPRAY-PAINTED ON WALLS ALL OVER THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

HE CAN HEAR HIS MOTHER'S CRIES AS HIS STEPDAD BEATS HER.

THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE ANY CAKE.

HE PRAYS IT WORKS.

EDDIE DOBBS NEEDS A FIX.

ALL HE HAS TO DO IS TAKE DOWN THIS OLD MAN. HE'S NEVER THOUGHT OF HIMSELF AS A CRIMINAL BUT...

...JUST THIS ONCE.

JUST TO SATISFY THE CRAVING.

EDDIE DOBBS NEEDS A FIX.

BUT NOT THAT BAD.

GOOD BOY.

WHO THE...

YOU GET TO WALK AWAY.

THIS TIME.

THEY MAKE DEATH HERE.

THEN THEY GIVE IT TO KIDS TO SELL TO KIDS.

IT'S BIG BUSINESS, DEATH.

THE NEIGHBORS ARE TERRIFIED INTO SILENCE. THE COPS ARE PAID FOR THEIRS. PRODUCT FLOWS OUT THE DOOR, AND MONEY POURS IN.

AND NOBODY CARES.

KHH BAMM BAMM BAMM BAMM

WHAT THE HELL?

KERACK

NELSON! DIEGO! COVER THE DOOR! WE GOT COMPANY!

THERE'S A MOMENT WHEN HE ENTERS A ROOM — THE TINIEST SOUND SEEMS TO DISAPPEAR.

THE MOMENT PASSES THE MINUTE HE SPEAKS.

THE RAGGED VOICE LIFELESS AND COLD.

PRAY.

THE BRAND ON HIS HEAD BURNS BRIGHT.

THE EYES BLAZE IN A DEAD MAN'S FACE.

THE WEAPONS AREN'T LIKE ANYTHING THEY'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE.

HE SMELLS OF EARTH AND SMOKE.

THE CLOTHES ARE TATTERED.

BUT THEY ALL RECOGNIZE THE SYMBOL ON HIS CHEST.

THE PUNISHER

"The field is the world;
The good seeds are the children of the Kingdom;
But the tares are the children of the Wicked One.
The Enemy that sowed them is the Devil;
The Harvest is the End of the Age;
And the Reapers are the Angels."
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW, 13:39

Stan Lee presents:

Purgatory Part 1

THE HARVEST

Christopher Golden & Tom Sniegoski writers

Bernie Wrightson penciler
Jimmy Palmiotti inker

Brian Haberlin colors Richard Starkings & ComicraftEM letters
Quesada & Palmiotti editors Nanci Dohesion managing editor

Bob Harras chief

MADRE DE DIOS!

WASTE HIM!

THE MAN IN FRONT IS THE FIRST TO DIE.

BRAAAP BRAAAP

IN TRUTH, THE FIRST IN ALL THE MONTHS SINCE THE PUNISHER RETURNED TO THE STREETS.

BULLETS TEAR INTO FLESH, AND HE FEELS THEM... IN HIS MIND, HE FEELS A MAN...

...DIE...

BLAM HMM

HE DOESN'T REMEMBER MUCH, BUT HE REMEMBERS WHAT HE IS. WHAT HE DOES. NO MATTER THE COST TO HIM...

...THE PUNISHMENT MUST FIT THE CRIME.

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

BRAAAP BRAAAAP

THEY'RE NOT HIS GUNS.

BRAAAAP BRAAAAP BRAAAAP BRAAAAP

NO WAY, MAN. HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!

HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THEY COME FROM.

HE JUST THINKS OF WHAT HE NEEDS...

YEARGH!

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

...REACHES INTO HIS COAT...

TURN AROUND, DEAD MAN.

OHGOD GOTTAGET OUTTA HERE!

...AND IT'S THERE.

FWOOSH

AEEEEE

THE FIRE SPREADS SO FAST, VINCE TUCCI CAN FEEL THE HEAT UNDER HIS SHOES.

IT JUST ISN'T NATURAL.

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

PLEASE, MAN...PLEASE DON'T. I... I GOT A FAMILY!

YOU IDIOT! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE OR WE'RE BOTH GONNA DIE!

YOU WANT TO GET DOWN?

OH, NO... PLEASE, I...

NOOOOOO!

THE SCREAMING STOPS SUDDENLY. JUST AS SUDDENLY, THE ROOF GIVES WAY, CAVING IN AS THE FIRE CONSUMES IT FROM BELOW...

AWOOM

...AND FRANK CASTLE TUMBLES INTO HELL.

MOVE YOUR BUTT, KAMINSKI, OR WE'RE GONNA LOSE THE WHOLE BLOCK!

THE FIRE ROILS AROUND HIM, AND THAT'S WHEN THEY COME. FLASHES. FRAGMENTS OF A LIFE THAT SEEMS SO FAR AWAY.

PIECES OF A PUZZLE HE'S STILL TRYING TO FIT TOGETHER.

YEARS IN A JUNGLE. HE DIDN'T COME HOME UNTIL THE WAR WAS OVER.

SOMEHOW, FROM THAT INSANITY, HE MADE HIMSELF A LIFE.

HE REMEMBERS HIS FAMILY. THE LOVE THEY GAVE.

THEIR BLOOD ON HIS FACE...

...AND ALL THE BLOOD HE TOOK IN VENGEANCE FOR THEIR MURDER.

FRAGMENTS OF A LIFE. FOR SIX MONTHS, HE'S BEEN WORKING TO PIECE THEM ALL TOGETHER.

BUT THERE'S ONE THING HE CAN'T REMEMBER.

NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIES...

HOW HE DIED.

ASHLEY, C'MERE! YOU SEEIN' WHAT I'M SEEIN'?

I SEE IT...

...BUT I'M GONNA PRETEND I DIDN'T.

UNTIL 1989, WHEN IT WAS DESANCTIFIED, THIS WAS THE CHURCH OF ST. TARCISSIUS.

IT'S JUST ANOTHER BUILDING NOW. BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO NEED VERY BADLY TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS STILL THE HOUSE OF GOD.

LORD, WE HAVE FALLEN SO FAR FROM YOUR GRACE...

THIS NIGHT, AS EVERY NIGHT, WE BESEECH YOU FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS.

WE BEG YOU, LORD, THROW WIDE THE GATES FOR US ONCE MORE.

AND IF WE HAVE NOT YET EARNED YOUR FORGIVENESS, LORD, WE HUMBLY ASK THAT YOU HOLD US IN YOUR HEART, AND KEEP US FROM HARM.

WE WOULD DIE FOR YOU, LORD, IF THAT IS YOUR WISH, BUT ONLY LET US SEE YOUR FACE ONCE MORE BEFORE...

I DON'T THINK HE'S LISTENING.

HE'S A BUSY MAN, AFTER ALL. FLOODS, TORNADOES, HURRICANES... YOU KNOW, ACTS OF GOD.

BUT LET'S GIVE HIM A CHANCE, SHALL WE? A FEW SECONDS TO COME TO YOUR DEFENSE... LET'S ALL HUM THE THEME TO "JEOPARDY."

GUESS NOT. AH, POOR THINGS, ABANDONED BY YOUR MAKER. YOU'D THINK HE WOULD HAVE FORGIVEN YOU BY NOW.

BUT YOU KNOW HOW HE CAN BE.

LET'S MAKE THIS QUICK. I HAVE TICKETS FOR THE LION KING.

STALKERS...

TAKE THEM!

ESPHARES! THE LORD HAS FORSAKEN US!

TARIEL! YOU MUST FLEE! GO -- WARN THE OTHERS!

YES, ESPHARES. I'M SO SORRY!

WHY, LORD? YOU MADE US TO BE WHAT WE ARE. HOW CAN YOU HATE US SO?

FLY AWAY, LITTLE ANGEL...

HE IS OLNIER. ONCE PRINCE OF THE ARCHANGELS, HE SIDED WITH LUCIFER IN HEAVEN'S ONLY WAR.

IT WILL ONLY TASTE ALL THE SWEETER..

WITH LUCIFER, AND SO MANY OTHERS, HE FELL.

...WHEN I FINALLY DRAIN THE LAST SPARK OF YOUR DIVINE ESSENCE.

HE IS LORD OF HIS OWN REALM IN THE NETHERWORLD, HIS OWN LITTLE PIECE OF HELL.

HMMMMMM... LOOKS LIKE ANGEL, TASTES LIKE CHICKEN.

BUT IT IS GROWING.

THANK YOU, ESPHARES. YOUR DIVINE ESSENCE WILL SERVE ME WELL.

"YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE INDIGNITY OF BEING REJECTED TWICE. FOR MY ARROGANCE, I WAS FIRST CAST OUT OF HEAVEN...

"...AND LATER, FROM HELL! MY AMBITION INTIMIDATED THE OTHER FALLEN, AND THE COWARDS TURNED ON ME. THEY GAVE ME THE CRUELEST PUNISHMENT THEY COULD IMAGINE...

HUMANITY.

"THEY TRAPPED ME INSIDE A SQUEALING BLOB OF HELPLESS FLESH.

"THEY TOOK MY MEMORY, TOO. FOR MANY YEARS, I ACTUALLY BELIEVED I WAS HUMAN.

AS YOU CAN SEE... I GOT BETTER.

LUCIFER. MEPHISTO. SATANNISH. ALL OF THEM.

"THE BABY WOULD HAVE BEEN BORN DEAD. INSTEAD, THE BEASTLY LITTLE BODY BECAME MY PRISON."

WITH YOUR HELP, AND THE HELP OF YOUR COWARDLY BROTHERS, I'M GOING TO MAKE THEM ALL PAY.

IN A WAY, ESPHARES, YOU'RE STILL DOING YOUR GOD'S WORK.

LUCY MELLACE STILL LIVES IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD, TWO BLOCKS FROM THE APARTMENT WHERE SHE GREW UP AS A CHILD.

IT USED TO BE A COMFORT TO HER. NOT ANYMORE.

WHERE THE HELL YOU BEEN, LUCY?

I DIDN'T GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO GO OUT! I'LL KILL YA!

I WON'T HAVE ANY BACKTALK FROM YOU, LUCY!

REMEMBER THIS NEXT TIME YOU FEEL LIKE "TAKIN A..."

...WALK?

TONY, I SWEAR I JUST WENT FOR A WALK. HAD TO CLEAR MY HEAD.

WHAT THE...

HE EXPLODES FROM THE SHADOWS, AN ENGINE OF RAGE. TONY MELLACE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE.

YOU SON OF A...

THWK

NEVER!

EVER!

OH MY GOD, TONY!

EVER!

GOD, IT'S YOU... YOU'RE REAL! I NEVER THOUGHT... I JUST WANTED HIM TO STOP. HE DOESN'T MEAN TO, BUT...

...HIT HER AGAIN!

YOU CAME TO THE ALLEY. YOU ASKED FOR HELP.

YOU WANT TO BE FREE. NOW'S THE TIME.

FRANKIE? FRANK CASTIGLIONE?

YOU'RE HIM? YOU'RE THE PUNISHER?

LUCY?

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE MADNESS OF WAR HAD ENDED AND THE OTHER...THE OTHER HAD YET TO BEGIN.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN HE THOUGHT THERE WASN'T GOING TO BE ANY MORE BLOOD.

HE REMEMBERS A GIRL, THE LITTLE SISTER OF HIS BEST FRIEND... SO LONG AGO...

HE REMEMBERS... LAUGHING.

I HAVE TO GO.

NO, FRANK, WAIT. I...

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU FOR...

I... I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.

IN THE ALLEY, FRANK CASTLE RESTS. HE THINKS OF LUCY, A GIRL WHO WILL ALWAYS BE EIGHT YEARS OLD IN HIS MIND...

...OF A TIME BEFORE THE PUNISHER.

THE IMAGES ARE STILL JUMBLED, BUT THEY MAKE A KIND OF SENSE NOW.

HE WAS THE PUNISHER -- THAT MUCH HE KNOWS.

AND HE... HE DIED.

WHY IS HE STILL HERE, WHEN [redacted] HIM ON THE OTHER SIDE?

ENOUGH FOR HIM TO KNOW THAT THERE'S A BIG PIECE MISSING.

DADDY?

FRANK, HONEY? COME WITH US, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO SEE.

MARIA?

PLEASE, STOP. YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE.

C'MON, DAD, WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO TALK LATER.

WAIT!

FASTER, DADDY, CLIMB FASTER!

...WAIT...

UP HERE, DADDY!

HE WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

WHO, [illegible] ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

MARI... NO!

COME, FRANK CASTLE... PLEASE...

MY FAMILY... WHERE DID THEY GO?

I'M SORRY, FRANK. THEY WERE NEVER REALLY HERE. I NEEDED TO SEE YOU... IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD THINK OF TO GET YOU TO...

YOU SON OF A...

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU...

NOT WHO, FRANK. WHAT. I'M AN ANGEL -- A GRIGORI.

WHEN THE LORD CREATED HUMANITY, HE SENT US DOWN TO WATCH OVER YOU, ALL OF YOU. WE LIKED WHAT WE SAW.

LIKED IT TOO MUCH.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU SHOULD KNOW ALL THIS, FRANK. GADRIEL SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.

THERE'S A...CLUB. A FILTHY HOLE CALLED MILTON'S, JUST ACROSS TOWN. ASK THE WRONG PEOPLE, YOU'LL FIND IT.

I DON'T... I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THIS.

OLIVIER IS MOVING FASTER, MORE AND MORE OF THE TERRITORIES FALLING UNDER HIS HEEL.

HE HAS TO BE STOPPED.

YOU'VE DIED ONCE, FRANK. THAT DOESN'T MEAN OLIVIER WON'T FIND A WAY TO KILL YOU AGAIN.

THIS IS INSANE.

FIND GADRIEL, FRANK. MAKE HIM TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW.

STOP OLIVIER. YOU MAY BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN.

I NEVER...THOUGHT I WOULD DIE ALONE.

HE'S SEEN A GREAT DEAL IN HIS LIFE THAT MOST PEOPLE WOULD NOT BELIEVE. BUT THIS...

FRANK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS. HE HAS SO MANY QUESTIONS.

AND IF THIS 'GADRIEL' HAS ANSWERS...HE'LL TAKE THEM.

TWO HOURS LATER, FEAR HAS BOUGHT HIM AN ADDRESS.

NOBODY WOULD EVER GUESS THERE WAS A NIGHTCLUB HERE, OR ANY NIGHTLIFE AT ALL. EXCEPT MAYBE FOR THE RATS.

IS THIS MILTON'S?

AND WHO ARE... OH, WAIT. YOU'RE CASTLE, AREN'T YOU?

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

THE NAME'S HELLSTORM. YOU'LL FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR INSIDE, MR. CASTLE.

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY. BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.

THERE'S A WEIRD ENERGY TO THIS PLACE. TO THESE PEOPLE. A HUSH OF EXPECTATION FALLS OVER THE ROOM.

GADRIEL.

AT THE BAR.

...I TOLD TARIEL AND THE OTHERS THEY WERE ON THEIR OWN. LEFT THEM TO THEIR PRAYERS.

I MADE MY MISTAKES, I'M PAYING FOR THEM. I'VE GOT TO LIVE WITH THAT. NOBODY SAID I HAD TO WHINE ABOUT IT.

HE DIDN'T WANT TO DIE ALONE.

TARIEL.

WELL HELLO, FRANK. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SHOW UP ABOUT NOW.

CAN I BUY YOU A DRINK?

YOUR DEAD ANGEL SAID YOU'D HAVE ANSWERS FOR ME. I WANT THEM. WHO'S OLIVIER AND WHAT DOES ALL THIS INSANITY HAVE TO DO WITH ME? TALK.

AARHH!

KRUNCH

I WAS DEAD.

NOW I'M ALIVE.

HOW?

VERY WELL, FRANK.

I BROUGHT YOU BACK. YOU'D BE IN HELL IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME. I GAVE YOU A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION.

WHY?

THE ONLY WAY I COULD THINK OF TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT I DID...WHAT I DIDN'T DO.

I WAS A GRIGORI ONCE, SENT TO EARTH TO KEEP WATCH OVER HIS FLOCK. WE FAILED AT THAT. WE ALL DID.

BUT I HAD A SECOND CHANCE, FRANK. ONLY 1 OF ALL MY KIND. THE LORD MADE ME A GUARDIAN... AND I FAILED AT THAT AS WELL.

I'M SORRY, FRANK. SORRY I WASN'T THERE FOR THEM. YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN SHOULDN'T HAVE DIED THAT DAY. IF I'D DONE MY JOB, THEY'D STILL BE ALIVE.

I WAS THEIR GUARDIAN ANGEL.

There's a moment when he enters the room — the tiniest sound seems to disappear.

The moment passes the minute he speaks.

The ragged voice lifeless and cold.

PRAY.

And so should You if you're not back here in 30 for PURGATORY, Part 2: The Devil you Know...

THE PUNISHER

WELCOME back to the pulse pounding, hard boiled world of every one's favorite vigilante, the Punisher! We know the Punisher has a lot of faithful fans out there who have been asking, even begging, for Frank Castle to be reinstated to the Marvel Universe. Well you wanted it, we at Marvel Knights wanted it, and here it is, only this time, there are going to be a few twists. The Punisher is still the no nonsense, guns-speak-louder than-words roughneck he's always been, but, by now you know, he's got himself in a whole new world of trouble.

Just take a look at the team we've assembled to bring you the latest exploits of the vigilante who delivers swift justice to the corrupt souls that fill our cities. Speaking of legends, we're honored to have the great Bernie Wrightson penciling this tale, written by the talented team of Christopher Golden and Tom Sniegoski and inked by our own Jimmy Palmiotti! As if that weren't enough, each cover of this four issue miniseries will be penciled by Bernie and painted by none other than Jumpin Joe Jusko! How do we do it all?

We're very interested in what you, the fans, think of this miniseries. So pick up those pens and pencils or start hitting that keyboard and let us know. The fate of a future Punisher miniseries may very well be in your hot little hands. Now on to the letters...

The Punisher

In 1974, the feeling was that the Punisher was too violent for his own monthly comicbook. It would take a new decade, with a new attitude towards crime, to elevate the vengeful Punisher to his full commercial potential.

Although in some respects the Punisher is a throwback to the pitiless heroes of the old pulp magazines, he is also a symptom of our time, or perhaps a commentary on how we see ourselves today.

The urge to see harsh, swift justice brought to those who flaunt the law is a strong one in most of us. On moral and practical grounds, we obviously can't go out and do the things a character like the Punisher does - but, for a while at least, we can have a great time immersed in a cathartic fantasy where we see to it that bad guys don't get away.

Outwardly he is stoic, but, beneath the surface he is tortured by the guilt of a survivor. Yet there are also hints that his loss may have been a blessing in disguise, that he was born for his job and could not be happy without it.

As we know the Punisher's faith will be put to the test in this limited series, so shall the reader's, as we follow Frank Castle through this new chapter in his life.

Adam Johnson
enozraw@aol.com

Well, Adam, you said it! We've always been big fans of the Punisher and, like you, we're interested in maintaining the integrity of his past, but like Frank himself, we're not going to shy away from giving you the straight-forward deal.

In Punisher, what's with that little thing on his forehead, and why do his guns glow green?? Did he just come outta Satanism or something?

Jake Blanchet
Rhode Island

Well, Jake, you can see new information has come to light, a red glowing light that is, and the Punisher is ready to get back into the swing of things. Writers Christopher Golden and Tom Sniegoski have only begun to unravel the story of what powers and plans were at work before Frank Castle became the lovable and cuddly Punisher.

Marvel Knights,

Thank you Thank you Thank you. With rare exception (Jim Lee, John Romita Jr.), the Punisher comics have always been plagued with mediocre creators. But Bernie Wrightson? A legend, a man whose work has stood the test of time and only managed to get better and better. His work on Frankenstein and Batman projects alone make him one of the most respected around. Now we finally get to see him try his hand at Marvel characters. As much as I love the artwork of Quesada and Palmiotti, I truly can't wait to see Wrightson draw Daredevil in the Daredevil/Punisher match-up I, along with other fans, am so hoping for.

The whole Marvel Knights line, in itself, is seriously proving to not just be a sales marketing ploy to get you to buy some crap you'd never actually want through the use of triple-chromium, silver plated, dipped in the blood covers. No, by using some of the medium's top creators, Marvel Knights is giving us, the fans, what we truly want: quality. Thank you from a fanboy.

Kevin Sandberg
168 East Broadway
Haverhill, MA 01830

You're welcome Kevin. We're all big, huge, gigantic fans of Bernie's work, but we would love to see a triple-chromium, silver plated, dipped in the blood cover. Are you offering?

Dear Punisher,

I live in a really bad neighborhood, I don't really want to say where, because every time my mother sends me out for milk, these guys hit me with baseball bats and things until I feel like a McDonalds hamburger. Is there any chance you could escort me once a week to the grocery store? I'm scared to leave my house. That's why all my comics come via subscription. Even then, the mailman hits me in the head with them and it hurts for weeks! What am I to do? Help me, I feel silly as it is, writing to you, but where else can I go? I have no brothers or sisters and my dog, Skippy ran away from home. As far as my mom and dad go, my mom only weighs ninety eight pounds, and my dad is away on some island for the next ten to twelve years. What should I do?

Ozbourne B. Biteen
ADDRESS WITHHELD BY REQUEST

GOT MILK?

Dear Punisher Crew,

I've been a huge fan of the Punisher books for quite some time now. I was really pleased when I heard the Punisher was being brought back as part of the Marvel Knights line. I believe Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti do a wonderful job with any project they are involved in. With these two as editors, it's bound to be a huge hit.

Then I heard that the book was taking a supernatural twist and I couldn't believe it. Frank Castle is all about guns, grenades and body counts. What could possibly be supernatural about that? Well, I had the pleasure of meeting Tom Sniegoski and Christopher Golden in Chicago and I expressed my concern to them. I know they are both very talented writers and I've enjoyed much of their work, but what is the deal here? They assured me that Frank Castle's origin would not be tampered with and that this new story wouldn't take anything away from the character, but it would actually add to it.

Although they couldn't tell too much about it, they did have a preview of the first issue with them. From what I saw the story was going to focus on a part of the Punisher never explored before. It wasn't going to be about how many bad guys he can kill, but rather about why he has to go out and do this. This is something most people don't think about when they read a Punisher story. If anyone can pull it off, Golden and Sniegoski can. They are both great at telling a story with a supernatural feel to it. Not to mention that with the art team of Bernie Wrightson and Jimmy Palmiotti the book looks unbelievable. Wrightson does wonderful horror type art and Palmiotti is the best inker in the business.

Needless to say I am now a fan of this Punisher story already, and the first issue hasn't even hit stores yet. So, please keep up the good work.

Jody Price
Ludlow, Ky
e-mail : JPrice7242@aol.com

Thanks for the kind words, Jody, and we hope that seeing this first issue of Punisher in all its glory makes your day! Now remember guns don't kill people, bullets kill people. Let us know what you think of this issue. We'll be waiting to hear your response.

Last, but not least, coming up this October, the entire Marvel Knights team will be attending a special event at The Words and Pictures Museum 140 Main St. Northhampton, MA 01060

The creator appearances will be on Saturday October 17.

DAREDEVIL
Kevin Smith*/ Joe Quesada*/
Jimmy Palmiotti*
BLACK PANTHER
Christopher Priest*/ Mark Texeira*
PUNISHER
Bernie Wrightson/ Joe Jusko*/
Christopher Golden*/
Tom Sniegoski*
INHUMANS
Paul Jenkins*/ Jae Lee*

Saturday October 17
10:30 AM - panel discussion
1:30 - 4:30 - creator signing
7 - 9 PM - Gallery reception

J&J

JOE QUESADA & JIMMY PALMIOTTI EDITORS

BOB HARRAS CHIEF

DESIGN BY COMICRAFT/EW

THE PUNISHER c/o MARVEL COMICS 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK, NY 10016

E-MAIL: MAIL@MARVEL.COM MARK E-MAIL "OKAY TO PRINT"

IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED, PLEASE LET US KNOW. LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.